

and a death date, with a dash in between. It is what we do with our dash that counts.

Senator Craig Thomas made his count. He was a dedicated public servant, a vigorous advocate, a compassionate leader, a marine, a proud patriot. To the citizens of his beloved Wyoming and to his colleagues in the Senate, he was a cherished friend.

Although my State and his are miles apart, with vastly different geography and history, I am struck by the similarities in the character of our people. Both the rugged Maine Yankee and the tough Wyoming cowboy are steadfast and modest. Both are determined, committed to doing what is right rather than what is easy. An old cowboy proverb says, "The best way out of a tight spot is to go straight through it," and Craig Thomas always faced challenges head-on. I have no doubt that he would have been just as at home on the deck of a lobster boat as he was on horseback, riding the range.

As a Senator representing a large rural State, I deeply appreciate Craig's devotion to preserving and enhancing a way of life that is such a vital part of the American spirit. His tireless work on such issues as agriculture, Indian affairs, natural resources, rural health care, and educational opportunity will help ensure a better future for people in small communities throughout our nation.

The courage and integrity with which he led his life were evident until the very end. Although stricken with a terrible disease, Craig always put his Nation and his State first. There was no time for self-pity or regret while there was still work to be done. He stayed in the saddle.

Craig was a public man, but, first and foremost, he was a loving husband, a devoted father, and a proud grandfather. In this time of sorrow, I know that his wonderful family finds strength in his honorable legacy. Senator Craig Thomas filled his dash with service, courage, and commitment, with life and love. May his memory inspire us all to do the same.

MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On April 12, 2007, in Crothersville, IN, Coleman King and Garrett Gray beat a man to death for allegedly making a sexual proposition to one of them. As the two young men were returning to Gray's house from an errand that day, they picked up 35-year-old Aaron Hall. The two men told police that Hall had

propositioned King; in retaliation, King and Gray began to beat Hall. The two men allegedly struck Hall until his eyes were swollen shut and he was spitting blood. They then carted him off to a ditch, continued to beat him and left him for dead. The two men drove back to the ditch with a shotgun later that day in order to make sure Hall was dead, but found him instead several days later dead in a nearby field, where he had apparently crawled.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Matthew Shepard Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JIM BOWMAN

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I pay tribute today to a legend of the U.S. Air Force Academy's athletic department, Mr. Jim Bowman. After dedicating 49 years of service over six decades to the Air Force Academy, Mr. Bowman, the associate athletics director for recruiting and support, will retire at the end of July 2007.

Mr. Bowman excelled on the football field at Michigan's Charlevoix High School. Following graduation, Mr. Bowman brought his on-the-field tenacity to the University of Michigan, where he played 3 years for the Wolverines, lettering at center his senior year. After graduation in 1956, Bowman joined the Air Force and completed pilot training in 1957 and also attended B-47 transition school.

In 1958, Lieutenant Bowman arrived at the Air Force Academy as junior varsity football coach. He led the junior varsity team for a total of 5 years and the freshman team for 11 years. In addition to his coaching duties, Mr. Bowman also began serving as the Academy's associate athletic director for admissions. However, after the 1975 season, when the Academy added 10 Varsity women's teams in addition to the 17 existing men's teams, Bowman stepped down from coaching to devote his full-time duties to recruiting support.

At the Air Force Academy, Bowman served on a coaching staff that led the Falcons to 17 postseason bowl games and 16 Commander-in-Chief's Trophies, as the top service academy football team. Since arriving at the Academy, Bowman has seen every class graduate, totaling 38,797 cadets to date, has overseen the appointment of an estimated 14,000 recruited athletes, and administered 49 admission cycles. Through this period, Mr. Bowman worked with 16 superintendents, 22 commandants of cadets, 8 deans of faculty, 8 athletic directors, 10 directors of admissions, and 120 assistant football coaches. His extensive experience in all phases of

intercollegiate athletics has contributed immensely to the development of the Air Force Academy's athletic programs. Mr. Bowman is an honorary member of the Academy Association of Graduates and a lifetime member of the American Football Coaches Association. In 2001, Bowman was inducted into the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame as part of the 1958 Cotton Bowl team.

Jim Bowman's retirement from the Academy marks the end of an era in Air Force Academy athletics. His 49 years of dedication to Falcon athletes, our future Air Force officers, and the Academy is simply unparalleled. Although his service at the Academy will be missed, I know Mr. Bowman will continue to serve his country in whatever future endeavors he chooses to pursue.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Jim Bowman's hard work and commitment to the U.S. Air Force Academy, the Air Force, and our country. While Mr. Bowman described his service to the Academy as "a privilege and an honor," it is our Nation that is indebted to Jim Bowman for his positive influence in helping to shape the characters of so many of our future military leaders.●

CONGRATULATING CHARLES J. MARTINEZ

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Charles J. Martinez of Bowling Green, KY, on being recognized as a winner of the Library of Congress's 2007 Letters About Literature competition.

Letters About Literature is a reading and writing program sponsored by the Library's Center for the Book. Throughout the country more than 56,000 young readers in grades 4 through 12 participated in the program, which encourages young kids to read and write a letter to their favorite author, of any era, whose books inspired them.

Charles chose to write about author J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series. He was one of two winners chosen this year in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

I now ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Charles for his dedication and commitment to reading and writing. In order for our society to continue to advance in the right direction, we must encourage more young people like Charles to read and write as often as possible. He represents Kentucky at its finest.●

CONGRATULATING CARLEY SMITH

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I also pay tribute to Carley Smith of Harrodsburg, KY, on being recognized as a winner of the Library of Congress's 2007 Letters About Literature competition.

Letters About Literature is a reading and writing program sponsored by the